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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/759,443	01/15/2004	Ping H. Kui	17646-113001 / 20000246	7836
26231	7590	11/18/2005	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON P.C.			PITARO, RYAN F	
P.O. BOX 1022			ART UNIT	
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022			PAPER NUMBER	

2174

DATE MAILED: 11/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/759,443	Applicant(s) KUI ET AL.	
	Examiner Ryan F. Pitaro	Art Unit 2174	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/15/2004</u> .   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-34 have been examined.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1,2,4,5,9-13,15-16,20-24,26-27,31-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boulter ("Boulter", US 6,771,288) in view of Ishii ("Ishii", US2003/0065814).

As per independent claim 1, Boulter teaches a method for administering bridge ports for a network, comprising: retrieving information associated with a plurality of switches, the information including at least identifiers of bridging ports of the switches and statuses of the bridging ports (Figure 3 and Figure 4, column 5 lines 14-19); receiving through the interactive display updates to at least one propagation status of at least one of the bridging ports of at least one of the switches (Column 8 lines 53-58); and changing the at least one propagation status based on the updates (Figure 3 and Figure 4, column 5 lines 14-19). However, Boulter does not expressly teach displaying the plurality of switches through its interactive display. Ishii teaches displaying the information for the plurality of switches ([0057] lines 1-6). Therefore it would have been

obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include the switch information of Ishii with the interactive display of Boulter. Motivation to do so would have been to provide improved communication quality allowing the user a more detailed information about the ports and switches.

As per claim 2, which is dependent on claim 1, Boulter-Ishii teaches a method wherein displaying the information through an interactive display comprises displaying all the retrieved identifiers of the bridging ports on a single window (Boulter, Figure 3).

As per claim 4, which is dependent on claim 1, Boulter-Ishii teaches a method, wherein the information associated with the switches further comprising a switch type (Ishii, [0052] lines [55]).

As per claim 5, which is dependent on claim 1, Boulter-Ishii teaches a method wherein displaying the information comprises color-coding status of the bridging ports (Boulter Column 8 lines 10-16).

As per claim 9, which is dependent on claim 1, Boulter-Ishii teaches a method wherein the interactive display operable to allow a user to change the propagation status of a plurality of all ports of a single switch, a plurality of ports of a single switch, and a plurality of ports of multiple switches (Boulter, Figure 4).

As per claim 10, which is dependent on claim 9, Boulter-Ishii teaches a method wherein the interactive display operable to allow a user to change the propagation comprises the interactive display operable to allow a user to change the propagation status from a single window (Boulter, Figure 4).

As per claim 11, which is dependent on claim 1, Boulter-Ishii teaches a method wherein the interactive display operable to allow a user to change the propagation status of all of all ports of a single switch, all of ports of a single switch, and all of ports of multiple switches (Boulter, Figure 4).

Claims 12,23,34 are individually similar in scope to that of claim 1, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 13,24 are individually similar in scope to that of claim 2, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 15,26 are individually similar in scope to that of claim 4, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 16,27 are individually similar in scope to that of claim 5, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 20,31 are individually similar in scope to that of claim 9, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 21,32 are individually similar in scope to that of claim 10, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 22,33 are individually similar in scope to that of claim 11, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Art Unit: 2174

Claim 3,6,7,8,14,17,18,19,25,28,29,30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boulter ("Boulter", US 6,771,288) and of Ishii ("Ishii", US2003/0065814) in view of Kekic et al ("Kekic", US 5,999,179).

As per claim 3, which is dependent on claim 2, Boulter-Ishii teaches bridging ports, but fails to teach a hierarchical tree structure. However, Kekic teaches all identifiers in a hierarchical tree structure (Figure 3B). Therefore it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to combine the hierarchical tree of Kekic with the interactive display of Boulter-Ishii. Motivation to do so would have been to show an organized way of displaying related elements.

As per claim 6, which is dependent on claim 1, Boulter-Ishii-Kekic teaches a method wherein the interactive display comprising a first and a second window, the first window comprising a hierarchical tree structure of all managed switches (Kekic, Figure 3B, item 305), the second window comprising a tabular display of port information of a managed switch selected in the hierarchical tree structure (Kekic, status window).

As per claim 7, which is dependent on claim 6, Boulter-Ishii-Kekic teaches a method wherein the second window provides a field in which a user of the interactive display can view the propagation status of a plurality of ports of the managed switch selected in the hierarchical tree structure (Boulter, Figure 4).

As per claim 8, which is dependent on claim 7, Boulter-Ishii-Kekic teaches a method wherein the propagation status of any or all ports of the managed switch selected in the hierarchical tree structure (Boulter, Figure 4).

Claims 14,25 are individually similar in scope to that of claim 3, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 17,28 are individually similar in scope to that of claim 6, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 18,29 are individually similar in scope to that of claim 7, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 19,30 are individually similar in scope to that of claim 8, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan F. Pitaro whose telephone number is 571-272-4071. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00am - 4:30pm M-Th, and alternating F.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on 571-272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2174

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ryan Pitaro  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2174

RFP



SY LUU  
PRIMARY EXAMINER